

## **Part II. Relationship between health care choices directive and durable power of attorney for health care choices**

If I have executed the health care choices directive and durable power of attorney for health care choices, I trust and encourage my agent to:

- First, follow my wishes as expressed in the directive or otherwise from knowledge about me or having had discussions with me about making choices regarding life-prolonging medical treatment.
- Second, if my agent does not know my wishes for a specific decision, but my agent has evidence of what I might want, my agent can try to figure out how I would decide. This is called substituted judgment and requires my agent imagining himself or herself in my position. My agent should consider my values, religious beliefs, past choices and past statements I have made. The aim is to choose as I probably would choose, even if it is not what my agent would choose for himself or herself.
- Third, if my agent has very little or no knowledge of what I would want, then my agent and the doctors will have to make a decision based on what a reasonable person in the same situation would decide. This is called making decisions in my best interest. I have confidence in my agent's ability to make decisions in my best interest if my agent does not have enough information to follow my preferences or use substituted judgment, and if this is the case, I authorize my agent to make decisions that might even be contrary to my directive in his or her best judgment.
- Finally, if the durable power of attorney for health care choices is determined to be ineffective, or if my agent is unable to serve, the health care choices directive is intended to be used on its own as firm instructions to my health care providers regarding life-prolonging procedures.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_